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WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1956

to which is appended the

Report of the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1956.

CORRIGENDA

1. Public Health Committee

Add "Mrs. D.E. Stanton" to list of members.

2. Poliomyelitis

On page 5 (5) - second paragraph, 3rd line - for "thses" read "these"

3. District Scavenging

On page 13 - To sub-para. (a) add the following:-

"The financial aspect is a less happy one for the total cost of this service estimated at about £8,000 per annum in 1946 reached the figure of £16,700 in 1956/7 but this figure includes the purchase of two vehicles mentioned below. Mainly the increase has been taken up in labour costs.


At the end of the year the Council accepted my suggestion that a tractor with bulldozer blade and hydraulic shovel should be purchased for tip levelling. During the year a replacement cesspool emptier was purchased at a cost of £2,300 having a capacity of 1,000 gallons compared with the previous 750 gallon vehicles."

4. Sewerage

On page 14 - Delete the two paragraphs at the top of page beginning with "The financial aspect"..... ending "vehicles".

5. Table of Meat Inspection

On page 15. 3rd line - For "cysticerosis" read "cysticercosis".


Medical Officer of Health.

12th September, 1957.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

W.H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Engineer & Surveyor, Senior Public Health Inspector.

A.H. EAGLE, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., Cert S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector

L.H. DOUGHTY, Cert. S.I.B.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector

P.A. PAGE, M.R.S.H., Cert S.I.B.

Inspector of Meats and Other Foods.

Water Mains Superintendent

R.A. GALL

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. E.G. Dodman

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.


Public Health Committee
1956

Chairman - The late Revd. H.J. Lowe succeeded by
The Revd. J.C. Pallister.

Vice-Chairman - Mrs. J.M. Gosselin.

Members -

Mr. G.S. Allen
Mr. C.B. Andrews, M.B.E.
Mr. H.A. Bond
Mrs. C.A. Duckworth
Mr. E.F. Hayman
Col. P.H. Labouchere, O.B.E., J.P.
Mrs. L.V. Neale, J.P.
Miss V.M. Sprott
Mrs. D.B. Thistleton-Smith
Mrs. E.G. Whitehead



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CONTENTS.

Part I - The Report of the Medical Officer of Health.. p. 1 - 8

Staff	p. 1
Area and Population of the District	p. 1
Meteorological Factors	p. 1
Vital Statistics	p. 2 - 4
Communicable Diseases	p. 4 - 6
Care of the Aged.....	p. 6
Housing	p. 6 - 7
Environmental Hygiene	p. 7 - 8.

Part II - The Report of the Engineer, Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector p. 9 - 16

Appendix A - Climatic Data	p. 17
Appendix B - Analysis of Causes of Death	p. 18
Appendix C - Water Tests - Bacteriological...	p. 19
Appendix D - Water Tests - Chemical	p. 20

PART I

- General -(1) Staff -

I took over my appointment on 1st August on Dr. Coutts Milne's resignation. My personal experience of the Walsingham Rural District is therefore limited to the latter half of 1956. Fortunately there were no other changes in the staff of the Health Department and I therefore had the benefit of the experience of Mr. Eagle and his assistants in my technical work. In this "combined" appointment, my duties as Assistant County Medical Officer for the Area take up the major part of my time and I can only devote a small fraction of it to my duties as Medical Officer of Health of this District. In these circumstances the execution of my statutory duties, particularly in the sphere of housing, food, water and environmental hygiene, must necessarily depend on the Officers of the Health Department of the Council. I am happy to record my appreciation and gratitude for the excellent assistance and co-operation they have invariably given me. At the same time I beg leave to wonder whether the present staff of Public Health Inspectors is sufficient for the responsibilities they have to bear in this widely scattered District.

(2) Area and Population of the District -

The District which comprises 39 parishes and covers 88,818 acres has suffered no change in extent or in character. It is essentially rural and agricultural and has a beautiful and most salubrious coastline which attracts an increasingly large number of summer visitors.

The population of the District has been estimated by the Registrar at 24,190 for the mid year 1956. The density is therefore only 0.27 per acre, a figure which reflects the vast extent of land under cultivation and the sparseness of the population.

The estimated mid-year population represents an increase of 60 over last years population, although the natural increase of births over deaths was more than double this figure. The difference suggests the degree of migration. The population of the District has varied very little and has only increased by 920 since 1951 when it was 23,270.

The Rateable value of the District is £153,337

The Product of the ld. Rate 1955-56 £373

(3) Meteorological Factors -

The data which have been furnished to me by courtesy of the Air Ministry Meteorological Office are based on observations at the R.A.F. Station at West Raynham. Although these cannot be accurately applied to all parts of the District, they, serve, in the absence of other observations, to give some indication of the climatic conditions which prevailed and the effect which these may have had on the health of the District. The data are summarised as Appendix A. (page 17).

The summer of 1956 was one of the worst on record. It will be noted that the rainfall during the summer months - June, July and August - was higher than that recorded at any other time of the year. The highest reading was 3.7 inches in August and the total rainfall for the year was 26.17 inches. The relative humidity under these conditions remained at high level throughout the year and particularly so in the improved weather conditions which prevailed during the Autumn and early winter. Temperatures, as might be expected, were not high in the summer, the highest mean daily temperature recorded being 59.9°F in July. On the other hand, temperatures were not exceptionally low in the winter months at either end of the year. The spring was perfect. Under these conditions, colds and snuffles among children tended to persist, holidays were ruined and spirits generally were depressed.

-- Vital Statistics --

(1) Births - The Registrar General's figures for births and still births occurring in the District during the year are as follows:-

(a) Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	156 (168)	160 (177)	316 (347)
Illegitimate	5 (6)	5 (6)	10 (12)
			<hr/> 326 (359) <hr/>

(b) Still Births

Legitimate	5	2	7 (8)
Illegitimate	1	--	1 (-)
			<hr/> 8 <hr/>

* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

These figures represent a crude birth rate of 13.46 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 14.87 per 1,000 in 1955 and with the average of 17.15 per 1,000 over the quinquennium (1951 - 55) and 19.43 per 1,000 over the exceptionally high post-war quinquennium (1946 - 50). The trend therefore is for the birth rate to decrease and, when one considers that the quinquennial figures are "loaded" by the considerable U.S. Forces' birth rate, the decrease in the British rate is appreciable.

The corrected birth rate, after adjustment by application of the "comparability factor" of 1.29, is 17.36 per 1,000. The live birth rate for England and Wales with which this figure may be compared is 15.7 per 1,000.

The still birth rate per 1,000 of total births is 23.9 as compared with 21.8 for the preceding year. The still birth rate has increased appreciably from 8.80 per 1,000 in 1951. The rate for England and Wales was 23 per 1,000.

(2) Deaths -

(a) The number of deaths of all ages reported by the Registrar General was as follows:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
129 (112)	73 (77)	202 (189) *

* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

This figure represents a crude death rate of 8.34 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 7.83 per 1,000 in 1955 and the average of 8.79 per 1,000 over the last quinquennium. Thus, although the crude death rate is slightly higher than last year's, it has reflected the downward trend which has been so marked since the post-war period (1946 -50) when the average was 12.99 per 1,000 and the higher national old age survival rate.

The corrected death rate, after adjustment by application of the "comparability factor" of 1.10, is 9.17 per 1,000 as compared with 7.89 per 1,000 in 1955 and 11.7 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

(b) The causes of death as recorded in the Registrar General's statement are shown in Appendix B (page 18). It will be noted that there is no appreciable difference between the causes of death as recorded in the year under review and those of the preceding year except that the number of deaths due to accidents has trebled. It is also noteworthy that two deaths in infants were caused by "gastritis, enteritis or diarrhoea", causes which reflect the standard of domestic hygiene and sanitation.

(3) Deaths by age groups - Apart from infant and neo-natal deaths, the Registrar General's summary does not show deaths according to age groups. From the monthly records received from the Local Registrar's Office the grouping is as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
0 - 1	5	3	8	(8)
- 5	1	-	1	(1)
- 10	-	-	-	(-)
- 20	2	1	3	(1)
- 30	9	2	11	(6)
- 40	7	2	9	(6)
- 50	3	6	9	(4)
- 60	8	4	12	(16)
- 70	24	15	39	(31)
- 80	45	23	68	(51)
- 90	26	14	40	(56)
- 100	4	4	8	(11)
	<u>134</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>(191)</u>
Registrar General's figures.	129	73	202	

As will be noted from the bracketed figures, the pattern of deaths by age groups has not altered since the preceding year.

(4) Infant Mortality - The Registrar General's figures show 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, the same number as those occurring in the preceding year. Their analysis is as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	-	1

This figure represents an infant mortality rate of 21.4 per 1,000 live births as compared with 19.49 per 1,000 in the preceding year. This small number of deaths subject the calculated "rate" to wide variation. A better comparison is obtained by the average rates during the two quinquennial post-war periods i.e. 20.43 per 1,000 for the period 1946 - 50, and 26.74 per 1,000 for the period 1951 - 55.

The causes of deaths of infants under one year are as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Toxic diarrhoea	1	-	1
Gastro enteritis	2	-	2
			(1 - 2 months. 1 - 3 months.)
Accidental death (asphyxia)	1	-	1
Prematurity	2	1	3
Cerebral damage	-	1	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>

The perinatal death rate, which is based on the combined still births and deaths in the first four weeks of life, is 33.7 per 1,000 as compared with 40.9 per 1,000 in 1955. The actual number of infant deaths in this category was four - one male, three females, all legitimate. Three of the deaths were due to prematurity; the fourth to cerebral injury at birth. All the premature deaths occurred among U.S.A.F. infants.

- Communicable Diseases -

(1) Notifications were received of 145 cases of communicable disease as against 300 in 1955 and 267 in 1954. These minor variations have no significance as they depend so much on the periodic rise and fall in the incidence of the commoner diseases, i.e. measles and whooping cough, which account for the largest number of cases notified. What is noteworthy and significant in this year's notifications is the epidemic of dysentery, of which 41 cases occurred, thus constituting 28.2% of the total. Thus:-

Measles	35	(203)	
Whooping Cough	32	(35)	
Scarlet Fever	1	(37)	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	(2)	
Dysentery	41	(1)	* Figures in brackets
Meningococcal infection	1	(..)	relate to the preceding
Acute pneumonia	14	(10)	year.
Erysipelas	1	(-)	
Food poisoning	9	(7)	
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	5	(10)	
Jaundice	4	(1)	

(2) Dysentery - The majority of cases occurred in Gt. Ryburgh (24) and Fakenham (10), the remainder in Doughton (2), West Raynham (2), Little Ryburgh (2) and Hempton (1). The age groups affected were children of school age (19) who, with six children of pre-school age constituted the majority of the cases, but 16 cases occurred among young adults and adults of both sexes ranging from 18 years of age to 57. The organism identified with the outbreak was Shigella Sonnei. The severity of the attacks varied but in the majority of cases it was mild. Indeed, so much was this so, that many more cases than those notified are reliably stated to have occurred, but these were so mild or so transient that no doctor was called in.

It is interesting that, despite exhaustive enquiries, the source of the infection could not be ascertained. As the epidemic occurred mainly in the first quarter of the year, flies can be exonerated as carriers of the disease and it is more than probable that human carriers were responsible for its spread through inadequate lavatory and hand washing facilities at home and particularly at school. The public at large still need a great deal of health education in matters of simple personal hygiene and most of the schools lack adequate facilities to encourage them i.e. hot water and clean towels for hand washing in the vicinity of lavatories.

(3) Food Poisoning - The nine cases were mild and they all occurred among soldiers in the military camps at Stiffkey and Weybourne. This is no reflection on the camp sanitation but rather an indication of the excellent facilities in military life for the reporting and diagnosis of such cases. The organisms isolated were Salmonellae, which in one case were identified as S. anatum.

(4) Tuberculosis - Five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, all among adults ranging in age from 36 to 74, and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (infected cervical glands) which occurred in a boy under five years of age. It is interesting to note the increasing incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in the older age groups. The analysis of the cases notified is as follows:-

Tuberculosis - Analysis of new cases.

	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Under 5	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)
5 - 14	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
15 - 24	- (-)	2 (3)	- (-)	- (-)
25 - 44	- (1)	- (6)	- (-)	- (-)
45 - 64	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
65 and over	2 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
* () Last year's figures.	3 (1)	2 (9)	1 (-)	- (-)

(5) Poliomyelitis - The solitary case of acute paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in a young female child of 5 years of age in Melton Constable. It presented the usual baffling features, namely the lack of any evidence of contact with any known case or suspected case of poliomyelitis, and the fact that she was attending school in close contact with many children, none of whom fortunately contracted the disease. Yet the infection was severe enough to affect a leg severely but she has made very good progress.

During the year a beginning was made with vaccination against poliomyelitis. 1845 children in the 2 - 10 age group who were offered vaccination, were registered and of these 198 were vaccinated by the end of the year. Owing to the delays in the production of the vaccine no further progress could unfortunately be made at the time. There is however every prospect of early improvement in the rate of production of the vaccine and in time it is hoped that this will keep pace with the growing public demand.

(6) Diphtheria - The success of immunisation against diphtheria, which once exacted such a heavy toll of life, is once again reflected by the fact that not a single case occurred during the year, the fourth in succession free from the disease. Immunisations continue to be carried out by General Medical Practitioners and by myself, in my capacity as A.C.M.O., at Schools and at Infant Welfare Centres. At Schools "booster" doses at ages 5 and 9 are mainly administered, while at Infant Welfare Centres courses of combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation are carried out. Many Medical Practitioners favour the use of a triple vaccine which combined diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

The number of immunisations carried out during 1956 in the Health Area for which I am responsible was as follows:-

Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	Totals.
Primary	248	95	52	395
Booster	-	-	730	730
Totals	248	95	782	1125

It is estimated that by the end of the year 6,820 children, at that time under 15 years of age, had been immunised.

(7) Whooping Cough - Only 32 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. An increasingly large number of infants are being immunised. The evidence hitherto available suggests that, while the vaccine does not confer complete immunity against the disease, it does render the attacks milder and almost invariably free from complications. For these reasons alone the immunisation of infants is strongly encouraged. The number of immunisations carried out in the Health Area during 1956 was as follows:-

Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14	Totals.
Whooping Cough Vaccination alone	-	-	-	-
Combined diphtheria and whooping cough.	208	86	52	346

- Care of the Aged -

(1) The longer survival of the population presents a problem of increasing importance especially as many aged persons are, by force of circumstances, left alone when their families grow up and disperse. It is a sad commentary on modern civilisation that in Western Countries the care of the aged is not regarded as a sacred duty and responsibility of the children, as it is in less advanced countries.

(2) The care provided by the Home Help Service of the County Council is invaluable in such cases but is necessarily limited and so is the assistance which is invariably forthcoming from kindly neighbours and Voluntary Societies. Early recognition and notification of such case would do much to ensure the assistance which can be provided from many sources and will obviate the unpleasant necessity of their removal under the provisions of the National Assistance Act. Fortunately these powers had only to be used in one case during the year but other cases may well arise in future.

(3) Meanwhile it becomes of paramount importance that as soon as possible suitable homes or colonies suitably designed, organised and managed should be provided for the care of those whose age, infirmity or circumstances make it impossible for them to live alone.

- Housing -

(1) I am indebted to Mr. Riches, the Housing Manager and to Mr. Eagle, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for the data used in the compilation of this section of the Report. Further details are shown in the Senior Public Health Inspector's report which is attached.

(2) The housing situation in the District at the end of the year may be summarised as follows:-

- a) The estimated number of unfit houses..... 484
- b) Demolition orders made during the year..... 39
- c) Unfit houses demolished..... 6
- d) Houses rendered fit during the year..... 23
- e) Improvement grants awarded under Housing Act 1949.....£29,825
(These improvements mainly consisted of installations of hot and cold water systems, W.C's., baths, sinks and improved drainage).
- f) Houses completed during the year.
 - i) by the Council..... 92 (17 under construction)
 - ii) privately..... 27
- g) Number of applicants on Waiting List 410
(including 162 new applications received during year)

Analysisi) Urgent cases

Families in Class 5 houses, overcrowded	
"Medical" cases, living in hutments.	138
Families sharing accommodation.....	86
Engaged couples.....	21
	<u>245</u>

ii) Less urgent cases

Families in Class 3 houses,.....)	
" requiring smaller accommodation....)	165
" requiring accommodation nearer work)		
" having to move from "tied" houses..)		
		<u>410</u>

Mr. Riches states that urgent cases which are outstanding can be met by relets, "but there is still an urgent need for houses in the larger parishes, particularly in Fakenham, as the majority of applications received are for accommodation in Fakenham and adjoining parishes".

h) Families living in hutments -

Little Snoring	16)	
Langham.....	8	≠) 85
Pudding Norton.....	61)	

≠ Probably moving to accommodation the Council may be taking on lease.

i) Families rehoused from hutments.. 20

(The hutments were cleared and returned to the owner).

(3) The Building programme for 1956 - Owing to the reduction of the Government subsidy and the general financial restriction, the Council decided to proceed only with buildings intended to rehouse families living in condemned property and to build 12 houses in Binham and 12 at Barney.

The Council also purchased three privately owned cottages. These provided excellent accommodation after suitable repairs and improvements had been carried out. This was the first occasion on which the Council acquired privately owned property for rehousing.

The Council also built shops with attached living accommodation to serve the tenants of Council estates at Walsingham and Fakenham.

(4) Slum Clearance - Progress has been slow. The following parishes were inspected by the House Inspection Sub-Committee - Binham, Briston, Field Dalling, Fulmodestone (including Barney), Hindolvestone, Warham and Wighton. It will be noted from Mr. Eagle's report that the number of visits carried out by the Health Department in connection with housing totalled 975 during the year.

- Environmental Hygiene -

This title comprises all those matters which affect the health of the individual through his environment, both at home and at work. Housing, water supplies, food hygiene, sewerage and scavenging are all included. These matters have been adequately dealt with by Mr. Eagle, the Engineer, Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, which is incorporated as Part II of this Report (Page 9 et seq). I wish to draw attention in particular to the following points of special importance in his report:-

(i) The urgent need for the implementation of the Fakenham and Hempton Sewage Scheme, and the gratifying news that this has at long last been sanctioned (p. 13).

(ii) The equally urgent need for the Blakeney and Wiveton Sewage Scheme which has made some progress but which still seems far from realisation, to the continued detriment of the amenities of this beautiful area; (p. 13)

(iii) The satisfactory completion of the Gt. and Little Walsingham Sewage Scheme and the welcome sanction accorded to the extension of waterborne Services (p. 13)

Note - There are however still far too many Parishes in the District still served by primitive pail or earth closets which constitute a constant menace to the public health as indicated by the incidence of dysentery.

(iv) The excellent organisation and development of the scavenging Services provided by the Council, efficient within the limitations imposed by their character (p. 12).

(v) The excellent bacteriological qualities of the public water supplies as compared with those derived from shallow wells (vide Appx. C p.19) which are undoubtedly a health hazard.

(vi) The satisfactory chemical composition of the public water supplies as revealed by the analyst's reports summarised in Appendix D (p.20) except for the exceptionally low fluoride content, a fact which is reflected in the very high incidence of dental caries among school children in the Area.

Note - The recommended content of fluorine in water supplies is 1 part per million.

(vii) The very considerable volume of work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in connection with food inspections (693) and the progress made in the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Note - It is nevertheless a disquieting factor that "almost all" but not all the animals slaughtered in the District for human consumption is examined by qualified Meat Inspectors (vide p. 14). It seems impossible to visualise any improvement of this preventable health hazard unless slaughtering can be centralised and better regulated or alternatively the Public Health Inspectorate increased.

(viii) The relatively slow progress made in Slum Clearance (p.11) which is a serious factor in the health and welfare of the people meriting very high priority.

Note - It would not be wise to assess the urgency for slum clearance on health statistics alone. These may tell us the truth, but not the whole truth. Consideration must be given to such imponderables as the happiness of the people and to the relation this bears to their environment, and also to the more tangible evidence provided by the many sad cases of mental breakdown and instability among adults and of maladjustment so often seen among children. These cases alone justify action in slum clearance and rehousing in the highest priority.

PART II

THE REPORT OF

MR. A.H. EAGLE, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., Cert S.I.B.

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.Public Health Acts

Initial Inspections	177
Revisits	71
Means of Escape from Fire .. .	28

Housing Acts

House Inspections	128
Revisits in connection with above .. .	115
Visits in connection with applications for grants under Housing Act 1949 .. .	157
Visits re Slum Clearance .. .	575

Food and Drugs Act

Premises Inspected	410
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice Cream .. .	16
Visits to dairies and inspections of milk retailers vehicles	6
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection visits .. .	261
Visits re Shellfish	-

Sewerage

Inspections of sewerage systems, disposal works and sewer ditches	125
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station .. .	73
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm .. .	13
Visits to Housing Sites in connection with proposed or existing sewerage and water supplies .. .	-
Contract (Sewerage) visits	239

District Scavenging

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints etc. .. .	151
Refuse Tips	79

Factories Act

Inspection of factories with power .. .	11
Inspection of factories without power .. .	6

Building Byelaws Inspections

Inspection during course of construction .. .	724
---	-----

Infectious Diseases

Cases Investigated	217
Rooms Disinfected	4

Rooms Disinfected

.. .. .	37
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Petroleum Acts

Installations inspected and tested .. .	3
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Small Dwelling Acquisition Act

Valuations and visits	13
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

Inspections	47
---------------------	----

Knackers' Yards

Inspections	5
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Street Naming and Numbering

Visits	250
----------------	-----

Water Supply - R.D.C. Mains visits..

.. .. .	164
---------	-----

Water Supply - New Contracts Visits

.. .. .	126
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Other Visits - Not classified under the headings above but made
in connection therewith

147
4378

- NOTICES SERVED. -Informal Notices

Public Health and Housing Acts	49
Food and Drugs Act	92
Factories Act	1
Building Byelaws	22
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	1
Street Numbering	7
Total Notices Served	<u>172</u>

Formal NoticesPublic Health Acts

Permission to serve	2
Served	2

Housing Acts

Permission to serve	11
Served	11

Food and Drugs Act

Permission to serve	14
Served	11

Total Formal Notices Served 24

Notices under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts dealt mainly with the remedying of nuisances or conditions prejudicial to the health of the occupants of private premises. Those under the Food and Drugs Act and Food Hygiene Regulations seek to obtain clean conditions in places where food is prepared or sold.

In all the cases where formal notices were served, the Council's requirements were complied with and no enforcement by action at Court was found necessary.

- HOUSING -(a) Slum Clearance

My report of 1955 gave the problem of unfit houses as totalling 383 houses to be dealt with and it was also noted that 101 houses condemned in previous years were still standing.

The following table summarises action taken during the year:-

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II	6
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Council	9
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices, by owners	14
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices by Council in default of owners	Nil
Undertakings given by owners not to re-let dwellings until repairs completed	18
Number of demolition orders made during the year	39
Number of closing orders made during the year	7

(b) New dwellings completed
(includes conversions from non-domestic buildings)

By private persons	27
By the Council	2

(c) Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants

The steady flow of applications continues from persons wishing to improve their properties or houses to let. In 1956 the Council notified its intention of granting £10,005. 3. 0d. in respect of 38 dwellings.

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception in 1954 is as follows:-

<u>Total Amount</u> <u>notified to</u> <u>rank for grant</u>	<u>For occupation by:-</u>		<u>Grant essential</u> <u>to preserve</u> <u>house and provide</u> <u>amenities</u>	<u>Grant to</u> <u>improve</u> <u>amenities</u> <u>only.</u>
	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Tenant</u>		
<u>Up to April 1956</u> £21,542	30	48	26	52
<u>April - December 1956</u> £8,283. 3. 0d.	13	20	4	29
£29,825. 3. 0d.	43	68	30	81

The usual improvements resulting from these grants is the installation of hot and cold water systems, water closets, baths and sinks and drainage to septic tanks. It is required as a condition of the grant that the houses should be brought into good repair and the resultant dwelling should have light and airy rooms free from serious dampness.

(d) Caravans

The following land was licensed for use as caravan sites during the year and shows an increase of 3 only since the end of 1955.

Morston, Parish Hall Ground	5 caravans
Morston, Quay Lane	3 caravans
Tattersett, Wicken Field	88 caravans

Twenty seven individual caravans were licensed to be stationed in various Parishes in the district.

- District Scavenging -

It is perhaps worthwhile to review the progress made in this essential public service since its introduction in 1946 when, foremost amongst local authorities, this Council strove to make a scavenging service available to all householders.

In 1946 with a refuse vehicle, a cesspool emptier and six men the work previously carried out by contractors in the Walsinghams, Fakenham, Hempton and the Ryburghs was undertaken by direct labour and comprised refuse collection from 1,661 premises and nightsoil collection from 694 premises. Later, in 1948-1949, by the purchase of four other vehicles and the employment of twenty men, the Council became the first rural district council to give a twice weekly nightsoil collection and refuse collection to its ratepayers in the entire area.

Modifications in subsequent years, by the use of larger and more efficient vehicles and reductions in the frequency of nightsoil collections have brought the labour force down to 14 men and the number of vehicles in use to four.

(a) Once weekly refuse collection is done at 4,153
premises

Once fortnightly refuse collection is done
at 2,252
premises

A weekly clearance of trade refuse is given
to about 50
shops in Fakenham.

Cesspool emptying of (estimated) 2,032
loads in 1953.

Twice weekly pail emptying occurs at 607
premises

Once weekly pail emptying occurs at 2,811 *

* but 199 houses and 23 schools also have a second emptying.

- SEWERAGE -

(a) New Projects

The Great and Little Walsingham contract (£28,285) was completed by the Spring. Until the end of the year the plant was only dealing with sewage from the Mount Pleasant estate and the school and only four further applications for connection had been received.

In July the Council directed me to prepare plans and contract documents for work to cover its obligations under Section 42 of the Public Health Act 1936. The new sewerage system is designed for foul water only. Extensive drainage systems will have to be installed at the Council's expense. The contract works were estimated to cost £10,000. Further expenditure on altering pail closets to water closets expected to amount to £14,000, the owners contributing half of this expense, is also contemplated.

The Blakeney, Wiveton and Morston Scheme - did not appear to be much nearer fruition although agreement on an alternative site for the much discussed Ejector Station had been reached by the end of the year.

(b) Existing Systems

Fakenham continued its discharge of screened sewage into the River Wensum at Hall Staithe but fortunately at the time of writing this Report years of negotiation with Ministerial and other bodies appears to have succeeded and a modernised disposal system may soon be expected.

Melton Constable - Maintenance only has been carried out at this works.

(c) Sewer ditches

Maintenance of two miles of ditch was carried out and two ditches were piped in Sculthorpe and one in Field Dalling.

The financial aspect is a less happy one for the total cost of this service estimated at about £8,000 per annum in 1946 reached the figure of £16,700 in 1956/7 but this figure includes the purchase of two vehicles mentioned below. Mainly the increase has been taken up in labour costs.

At the end of the year the Council accepted my suggestion that a tractor with bulldozer blade and hydraulic shovel should be purchased for tip levelling. During the year a replacement cesspool emptier was purchased at a cost of £2,300 having a capacity of 1,000 gallons compared with the previous 750 gallon vehicles.

- PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949 -

The "block" system of treating all the built-up parts of a village at one time has been continued and has given effective results.

The gang was reduced from three men to two as is reflected in the falling off in the number of treatments given, 1,416 compared with 2,381 in the previous year. Similarly, only 5,344 inspections of premises were made compared with 7,997 in 1955. The service given appears to be adequate considering the financial resources of the area but a second year with the reduced gang could possibly lead to heavier infestations and the matter must be kept under review.

A new Ford van was purchased during the year for this work.

- FOOD -

(a) Milk

There are twelve registered distributors of milk in the District, two of whom produce Tuberculin Tested Milk, one pasteurised milk produced at local farms and nine obtain their supplies from pasteurising plants outside the district.

The County Council's Officers took 45 samples of milk in the area during the year of which three failed to pass the phosphatase test for adequacy of heat treatment and one sample was void. One of the samples failed to pass the methylene blue test which is test for cleanliness of the milk and one sample, again, was void.

(b) Food Preparing Premises

The following food preparing premises have been inspected during the year with a view to bringing them up to the standard required by the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations:-

Bakehouses	7	Fish Shops	2
Butcher's Shops	12	Market Stalls	14
Catering		Provision Stores	42
Establishments	12		

Three premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream bringing the total registrations under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 to seventy. Ninety-two informal and eleven formal notices were served in 1956.

(c) Food Inspection

Three slaughterhouses are in action, the remainder of the meat consumed being imported or slaughtered at Cawston or Wells. Almost all animals slaughtered in this District for human consumption continue to be examined by your qualified inspectors.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned - For the Year ended 1956.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Inspected	295	16	488	584
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis				
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	55	1	23	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.6%	6.25%	4.9%	4.6%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> -				
Whole Carcases condemned	1	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	-	-	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4%	-	-	2.7%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

- FACTORIES -

(a)	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. Inspected</u>	<u>No. in which defects were found.</u>	<u>No. in which defects were remedied by</u>
				<u>Informal Notice</u> <u>Formal Notice</u>
	100	19	2	2 Nil

(b) Means of Escape from Fire

One certificate on adequacy of means of escape from fire was issued in respect of premises in the District.

The description "factories" covers a multiplicity of small workplaces although there is a large printing works and a few other premises employing over fifty people. There are two foundries, a laundry, an agricultural machinery works, three large motor vehicle repair works, two grass drying plants and a pea washing plant on the list.

- STREET NUMBERING -

Street numbering was carried out in the Parish of Binham.

- PUBLIC CONVENIENCES -

After exciting a great deal of antagonism the turnstile at the ladies conveniences at Fakenham was removed and new door locks fitted. It is sad to relate that the cleanliness of the place has rapidly deteriorated since that date. At Blakeney, however, where a turnstile remains in position (but with easier access) and has proved a success.

- WATER -

(a) New Projects

At Tattersett a 4-inch supply from the Docking Rural District Council mains was laid.

Extensions of the mains to Hindringham and Sculthorpe were completed and in these three cases a good response was made by householders to the "free connection" offered by the Council and by the year's end over 75% of the properties had been connected, a better response than in any of the previous parishes affected by mains laid since 1946. Much of this credit reflects upon the energetic canvassing made by the District Councillors in those Parishes.

Minor extensions were made as follows:-

Houghton - supply to Slipper Chapel by R.D.C. staff.
 Hindolvestone - supply to Common Cottages by Westminster Estate.
 Blakeney - relaying of pipes in Back Lane by R.D.C. staff.
 Blakeney - supply to "North Down" by R.D.C. staff.

(b) Frost Damage

Severe frost in early February had the following effect on pumping figures:-

Daily average gallonage pumped from Houghton throughout January:-	207,483
Meter reading for Saturday, 4th February (part of day below 32°F)	197,000
Meter reading for Sunday, 5th February (thaw had set in)	332,000
Meter reading for Monday 6th February	538,000
Meter reading for Tuesday, 7th February	291,000
Meter reading for Wednesday, 8th February	252,000
Meter reading for Thursday, 9th February	200,000
Meter reading for Friday, 10th February	209,000

From 3rd February Waterworks personnel were lent to the Housing Department to cope with frozen installations and requests from the public were similarly attended to. Council house installations at Walsingham, Warham, Hindringham, Field Dalling, Langham, Blakeney, Little Snoring and the Crabbe Huts were dealt with.

Fortunately no damage or even temporary stoppage to water mains or pumping plant occurred except an electricity breakdown at Hindolvestone.

(c) Fractured Mains

Fractures and other defects to mains were experienced at Binham, Fakenham (2) Morston, Blakeney and Houghton.

(d) Connections made during year

368 domestic premises and 41 metered supplies were connected to the main during the year and this compares with 365 connections and 41 metered supplies made during 1955.

APPENDIX A.

CLIMATIC DATA.

	Mean daily Maximum Temp.	Mean daily Minimum Temp.	Mean daily Temp.	Total Rainfall (inches).	Mean Relative Humidity.
January	40	34	37	3.33	90.7
February	33.9	25.4	29.7	1.80	88.8
March	48.8	34.7	41.7	0.96	81.7
April	49.0	35.4	42.2	1.31	77.7
May	63.1	44.1	53.6	1.15	70.7
June	60.1	47.8	53.9	3.27	80.2
July	66.1	53.8	59.9	3.61	82.5
August	62.9	48.9	55.9	3.70	83.0
September	64.2	50.4	57.3	1.58	86.5
October	54.3	43.1	48.7	2.54	87
November	46.3	37.6	41.9	1.55	92
December	45.2	38.8	42.0	1.47	91.2

APPENDIX B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1. Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	1	1 (1)
2. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1 (1)
3. Cancer, stomach	3	5	8 (1)
4. " Lung	2	-	2 (3)
5. " uterus	-	1	1 (-)
6. Other forms cancer	11	4	15 (21)
7. Diabetes	2	2	4 (1)
8. Vascular lesions, nervous system	8	16	24 (23)
9. Coronary disease of the heart	19	7	26 (23)
10. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2 (4)
11. Other heart disease	29	11	40 (47)
12. Other disease of the circulation	9	7	16 (10)
13. Influenza	2	-	2 (2)
14. Pneumonia	4	2	6 (4)
15. Bronchitis	5	3	8 (5)
16. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	-	2 (1)
17. Ulcers, stomach or duodenum	1	1	2 (1)
18. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	2 (-)
19. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1 (2)
20. Prostatic enlargement	1	-	1 (4)
21. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	-	1	1 (1)
22. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	10	17 (17)
23. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3 (6)
24. All other accidents	14	1	15 (5)
25. Suicide	2	-	2 (2)
Totals	129	73	202 (189)

≠ Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

APPENDIX C.WATER SAMPLING.Report on Bacteriological exams of samples of water taken during year.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Public Supply</u>		<u>Private Sources</u> (Wells)		<u>Newly-laid</u> <u>Main Supply</u>	
	<u>Satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory.</u>	<u>satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory.</u>	<u>Satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory.</u>
Bale	-	-	1	1	-	-
Barney	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barsham	-	-	1	-	-	-
Binham	1	-	-	1	-	-
Blakeney	1	-	-	-	-	-
Briningham	-	-	1	1	-	-
Brinton (Sharrington)	-	-	1	-	-	-
Briston	-	-	2	1	-	-
Dunton	-	-	1	-	-	-
Fakenham	19	1	-	-	-	-
Field Dalling (Saxlingham)	2	-	-	1	-	-
Fulmodestone	-	-	1	1	-	-
Helhoughton	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hindringham	1	-	2	5	5	1
Holkham	-	-	1	5	-	-
Kettlestone	-	-	1	-	-	-
Langham	1	-	-	-	-	-
Morston	1	-	-	-	-	-
Melton Constable	-	-	1	1	-	-
Raynham	-	-	-	1	-	-
Gt. Ryburgh	-	-	2	2	-	-
Sculthorpe	-	-	1	1	7	7
Little Snoring	2	-	-	-	-	-
Stibbard	-	-	2	1	-	-
Stiffkey	1	-	-	-	-	-
Swanton Novers	-	-	1	1	-	-
Tattersett	-	-	1	-	7	2
Thurning	-	-	-	1	-	-
Thursford	1	-	-	-	-	-
Walsingham Gt.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Walsingham Lt.	2	-	1	1	-	-
Warham	-	-	1	5	-	-
Wighton	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wiveton	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Norton	-	-	3	1	-	-
Totals	39	1	25	31	19	10

Where samples taken from private sources were found to be unsatisfactory, the owner of the supply was required to cleanse the well concerned, or if a mains supply was available, to connect to that source the properties served by the contaminated source. The solitary unsatisfactory sample from the main supply can be attributed to a technical fault (either to an unsterile bottle or to a fault in sampling technique), as subsequent samples proved highly satisfactory.

APPENDIX D.- Analysis of Water -

Sources of Samples and Dates	Main Supply Houghton Pumping Station 15.10.56.	Hindolvestone Main supply 15.10.56.	North Creak Airfield Deepbore. 15.10.56.
Appearance	clear	Opalescent Rusty	Clear trace rusty deposit
Nature of deposit	Nil	Iron comp.	Iron comp.
Colour	Nil	Slight Yellow	Slight Yellow
Reaction	neutral	neutral	neutral
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.1	7.3	7.0
Taste	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Trace	0.33	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.03	0.06	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	7	Nil	0.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	0.01	Nil
Chlorine as chlorides	22	24	22
Total hardness	315	220	285
Fluorine	0.02	0.15	0.18
OPINION	Fit	Fit	Fit

⊗ Tabulated summaries of three analyses carried out by
Messrs. Lincolne, Sutton and Wood.

